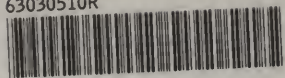


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REPT. OF ORGANIZATION  
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH:

REPORT OF ORGANIZATION ✓

AND

MINUTES

OF

FIRST AND SECOND MEETINGS,

JULY 3 AND NOVEMBER 11, 1885.

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EDWIN K. MEYERS, STATE PRINTER, HARRISBURG.



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## RECORD OF ORGANIZATION AND ABSTRACT OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD.

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Pursuant to a summons from the Honorable the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the following-named members of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, established by act of Assembly approved by His Excellency, the Governor. June 3, 1885, met in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth on Thursday, July 2, 1885, at 12.30 o'clock, as required by section 2 of the act, viz: Dr. Pemberton Dudley, of Philadelphia; Dr. Edward William Germer, of Erie; Dr. J. M. McClelland, of Pittsburgh; Mr. Rudolph Hering, of Philadelphia. Dr. Benjamin Lee, of Philadelphia, and Dr. J. F. Edwards, of Philadelphia;

The oath of office, required by section 1, article VII, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was administered by the Honorable the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and under his supervision the members proceeded to draw lots for their respective terms of service, with the following results: Dr. Edward William Germer, six years; Dr. Pemberton Dudley, six years; Dr. J. F. Edwards, four years; Dr. Benjamin Lee, four years; Mr. Rudolph Hering, two years; Dr. J. H. McClelland, two years.

The Board then proceeded to organize by the election of Dr. Pemberton Dudley as temporary chairman, and Dr. J. F. Edwards as temporary secretary.

The Chair announced the first business in order to be the election of a president, in accordance with section 2 of the act.

On motion, it was resolved that the election be by ballot. The Chair appointed Dr. McClelland as teller.

Dr. Edward William Germer, of Erie, was declared unanimously elected.

The appointment of a secretary was next in order, and Dr. Benjamin Lee, of Philadelphia, was unanimously elected to fill this position.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the President having taken the chair, it was

*Resolved*, That the temporary secretary be instructed to at once notify His Excellency, the Governor, that the Board has organized [by electing Dr. Edward William Germer, of Erie, to be president, and appointing Dr. Benjamin Lee, of Philadelphia, as its secretary, and that it is ready to receive communications from him on any subject pertaining to the protection of life and health, or other matter within the range of the duties by law assigned to it.

*Resolved*, That the temporary secretary likewise notify His Excellency that, in consequence of the election of Dr. Benjamin Lee, of Philadelphia, a member of the Board, to the position of secretary, a vacancy now exists upon the Board, which it will be the duty of His Excellency to fill.

At the request of the temporary secretary, Dr. McClelland was instructed to act with him as a committee to carry out the foregoing resolutions.

The committee having reported that they had accomplished the duty prescribed, and conveyed the assurance of His Excellency's interest in the objects of the Board and his earnest wishes for its successful administration, the Board adjourned to meet in the same room at 2, P. M.

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#### MINUTES OF SECOND SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board met at 2, P. M., in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. All the members present. Dr. Germer, the President, in the chair.

Dr. McClelland moved that a committee be appointed to draft by-laws for the government of the Board, and report at a special meeting to be held for the purpose of considering such by-laws.

The Secretary stated that, in order, if possible, to avoid the necessity for a special meeting at an early date, he had taken the liberty of drafting a set of by-laws, founded on those of the most successful Boards in other States, and, if it pleased the Board, he would submit them. Permission was accorded, and, on motion, the law establishing the Board was declared to be the Constitution of the Board, and the Secretary was instructed, in having the by-laws printed, to preface them with a certified copy of the act, as such constitution.

The by-laws were then read, and, on motion, considered *seriatim*, amended and finally adopted as a whole, as the by-laws of Board. On motion, the Board then adjourned to meet at the same place at 8, P. M.

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#### MINUTES OF THIRD SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board met at 8, P. M., in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The President in the chair, all the members present.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the Secretary was instructed to obtain the opinion of the Attorney General of the State as to whether section 27, article III, of the Constitution is in any way prohibitory of the right of this Board to order inspections of food, drugs, etc.

Dr. Dudley then moved that the Secretary be authorized to purchase such scientific and other works, and to subscribe to such periodicals as, in his judgment, the Board may need for the use of its members in the discharge of their duties. Carried.

The Secretary announced a donation of an entire set of annual reports from the State Board of Health of New York, for which he was ordered to return the thanks of the Board. The Secretary then offered the following resolutions, which were carried, viz :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Sanitary Legislation, Rules and Regulations be, and is hereby, directed to report, at its convenience, upon the



laws of the Commonwealth so far as they affect the necessary action of the Board, and also to prepare and print such portion of the existing laws as may, in its judgment, be useful to the public and to this Board.

*Resolved*, That Committee on Epidemic, Endemic, and Contagious Diseases be, and is hereby, directed to prepare, and, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to publish and circulate a brief circular upon the subject of epidemic cholera, containing plain, practical instructions as to the most important measures to be adopted and rules to be observed, both by local boards of health and by private citizens, to prevent the invasion and spread of that disease.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be authorized to request Dr. L. H. Taylor, of Wilkes-Barre, to prepare, for the use of the Board, a complete history of the existing epidemic of typhoid fever at the town of Plymouth, Luzerne county, with accurate maps, showing the various sources of water-supply, and their relations to the spread of the disease.

Also, to request Dr. E. O. Shakespeare, of Philadelphia, to furnish, for the use of the Board, full and complete records of the autopsies made by him at Plymouth, in order to determine the precise nature of the epidemic.

Also, to request Dr. Morris Stroud French, of Philadelphia, to prepare a brief history of the establishment of the temporary fever hospital at Plymouth, under the auspices of the Citizens' Relief Committee of Philadelphia.

Also, to request Dr. Morris Stroud French, of Philadelphia, to prepare a statement of the expenses incurred in the treatment of the sick, whether in their homes or in hospital, in providing food and other necessities for the destitute, and in disinfection: and an estimate of the financial loss to the community and State from the epidemic.

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be authorized to use its discretion as to the amount of compensation to be allowed for each of the above-named reports.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Sanitary Legislation, Rules, and Regulations, be, and is hereby, directed to prepare, and, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to circulate a simple plan for the organization of local boards of health.

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be, and is hereby, authorized to communicate with the Honorables, the Secretary of Internal Affairs, the Treasurer, and the Auditor General of the Commonwealth, in regard to the proper forms to be observed in obtaining, for the use of the Board in meeting its current expenses, the moneys appropriated for this purpose in section 2, of the act establishing the Board.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Registration and Vital Statistics be, and is hereby, directed to prepare the necessary methods and forms for obtaining and preserving records of births, marriages, and deaths, of prevalent diseases, and of practitioners of medicine and surgery, in accordance with the requirements of section 7 of the law establishing this Board.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be, and is hereby, instructed to inform all local boards of health in the State of the organization of this Board, and of the time and place of its regular meetings, to call attention to the provisions of the law, and to request copies of their reports and publications, in conformity with the requirements of section 8 of the law.

*Resolved*, That the State Board of Health desires to express its hearty approbation of the energetic measures now being carried out by the Boards of Health of the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, in order to avert the threatened invasion of cholera during the present summer.

*Resolved*, That in house to house inspection, faithfully and fearlessly performed, it recognizes the only reliable means for discovering the actual sanitary condition of a city; and that the appointment in Philadelphia of an officer, who shall devote his entire time to the work of disinfecting such premises as are reported by the inspectors to be a source of danger to the public health, affords reasonable grounds for the hope that, with proper pecuniary support from councils, these efforts will be crowned with success.

*Resolved*, That the State Board of Health regrets the suspension of the order of Board of Health of Philadelphia directing the disuse and filling up of wells for drinking purposes in built-up parts of the city, believing that all such wells, if not already polluted, must shortly become so, thus constituting a constant source and menace of disease.

*Resolved*, That the State Board of Health pledges to the boards of health or health commissioners of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, its hearty coöperation in all measures designed to avert pestilence from and maintain a high standard of public health in the ports of the Commonwealth, and will unhesitatingly use for this purpose whatever powers the Legislature may have conferred upon it, and will also avail itself of such advantages as may accrue from its relations to the National Board of Health and to the boards of health of neighboring States, to the same end.

*Resolved*, That in view of the lateness of the season, and the threatening character of the news from Europe in regard to the progress of Asiatic cholera, the boards of health of the cities referred to be notified to send at once to the Secretary of this Board copies of their regular reports, together with such other information as, in their judgment, it may be important that this Board should be in possession of, without waiting for the preparation of blanks by this Board.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be, and is hereby, instructed to notify His Excellency, the President of the United States, the Secretary of the National Board of Health, and the secretaries of all State boards of health now existing, or which shall hereafter be created, of the establishment of this Board, and of its readiness to coöperate with them in the work of protecting the health of the entire nation.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to communicate with the secretaries of the State boards of health of all contiguous States with reference to devising a plan of inter-State supervision of travel and traffic, in

order to prevent the importation of infected goods or persons from one State into another.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary, acting in connection with the Committee on Travel and Traffic, be instructed to address a circular to the presidents of all railroad companies running lines on the territory of this State, urging them to adopt rules for the conduct of their employés in the event of the discovery of infected persons or goods on their trains, and also to determine upon refuges, at safe distances from centers of population, to which such persons may be transferred for medical care and isolation, and such goods for disinfection, and calling for reports from such railroad officials as to the plans adopted by them in accordance with these suggestions, as well as in regard to the means taken by them for keeping their premises and lines of travel in good sanitary condition.

*Resolved*, That no papers shall be published in the annual report of this Board except such as are approved for purposes of such publication by a majority of the members of the Board, and that any such papers shall be published over the signature of the writer, who shall be considered as entitled to the credit of its production, as well as responsible for the statement of facts reported and opinions expressed therein.

On motion, the Board then adjourned to meet at 9, A. M., the day following, July 3, in the same place.

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#### MINUTES OF FOURTH SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board met at 9, A. M., July 3, in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the President, Dr. Germer, in the chair. Present, Doctors Germer, Dudley, Lee, and Mr. Hering.

On motion, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

The Secretary then read an "Address to the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the people of Pennsylvania," which, with some modifications, was, on motion, adopted.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the Secretary was authorized to have as many copies of the address printed as in his judgment was necessary to secure the objects of the address in giving information to the people of the existence and objects of the Board.

Dr. Dudley moved that the Secretary be authorized to transmit copies of the address to all mayors of cities, burgesses of boroughs, and supervisors of townships, and to the newspapers of the State.

It was carried.

Also, that the Secretary be, and is hereby, instructed to issue a postal card or circular to all physicians in the Commonwealth, notifying them of the establishment of the Board, and inviting their friendly and active co-operation in the work of organizing sanitary effort, and procuring sanitary statistics throughout the State.

It was carried.

Also, that the Secretary be requested to furnish each member of the

Board with complete lists of the standing committees, and the members composing each.

It was carried.

Also, that the Committee on Epidemics and Contagious and Infectious Diseases be authorized to confer with the State Board of Agriculture in reference to the subject of the prevention and control of contagious and infectious diseases in domestic animals, and to report at the next regular meeting.

It was carried.

A short recess was then taken, and the Board re-assembled at the Lochiel Hotel.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, that portion of the by-laws which referred to the appointment of standing committees, viz: Article VII, section 1, was reconsidered, and a re-arrangement of the original committees was agreed upon, by which their number was reduced from ten to eight, as already reported in the minutes. This necessitated a change in the chairmanships of certain committees, so that by the new arrangement the committees stand as follows:

1. *Executive Committee*.—Chairman, Pemberton Dudley, M. D., Rudolph Hering, C. E., J. F. Edwards, M. D., Secretary, Benjamin Lee, M. D.

2. *Committee on Registration and Vital Statistics*.—Chairman, Benjamin Lee, M. D., Edward William Germer, M. D., J. F. Edwards, M. D.

3. *Committee on Preventable Diseases and Supervision of Travel and Traffic*.—Chairman, J. F. Edwards, M. D., Pemberton Dudley, M. D., Benjamin Lee, M. D.

4. *Committee on Water-Supply, Drainage, Sewerage, Topography, and Mines*.—Chairman, Rudolph Hering, C. E., J. H. McClelland, M. D.

5. *Committee on Public Institutions and Places, and School Hygiene*.—Chairman, J. H. McClelland, M. D., Rudolph Hering, C. E.

6. *Committee on Adulteration of Foods, Beverages, and Drugs*.

7. *Committee on Explosives, Poisons, and other Special Sources of Danger to Life and Limb*.—Chairman, Pemberton Dudley, M. D.

8. *Committee on Sanitary Legislation, Rules, and Regulations*.—Chairman, Pemberton Dudley, M. D.

On motion, the Board then adjourned *sine die*.

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#### MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday, October 21, at 12, M., at the executive office, on the call of the President; Dr. David Engelman in the chair. Present, Dr. Pemberton Dudley, Dr. David Engelman, Dr. Benjamin Lee, and by proxy, Mr. Rudolph Hering. The reading of the minutes was, on motion, dispensed with. The Secretary stated the object of the meeting to be the consideration of the general subject of the powers of the Board as regarded the abatement of particular nuisances. The question was now a pressing one, since complaints of a very serious nature had



been made to the Secretary of nuisances existing in the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia, imperiling the health of not only the inhabitants of the villages in which these nuisances existed, but of the entire city. Three cases were instanced: that of Spring Mill, Montgomery county, where small-pox had been introduced by infected rags at a paper-mill; that of Rosemont, where typhoidal and malarial fevers of obscure type had been caused by filthy hog-pens, and cow yards, and defective drainage; and that of Fernwood, Delaware county, where typhoid fever had been caused by neglected drainage. In the case at Rosemont, the Secretary, as executive officer of the Board, had twice given the offender formal notice, and personally extorted from him a promise to abate the nuisance, but neither warning nor promise had been respected. It had, therefore, become necessary for the Board to act, if it wished to preserve its self-respect, and the respect of the community. The Secretary had obtained a formal opinion from an attorney on the powers of the Board, and also an expression of opinion from Attorney Bickel, district attorney for Montgomery county, in which the nuisance referred to existed, both of which were read to the Board.

That of Attorney Bickel contained a recommendation that the Board adopt a regulation similar to the following:

#### REGULATION.

Whenever a complaint is made in writing to the Secretary of the Board of the existence of a nuisance, he shall forthwith, as executive officer of the Board, investigate the matter, and shall determine whether the alleged nuisance is detrimental to the public health or the cause of any especial disease or mortality; and in case he shall so find, then he shall notify the owner, agent, or occupier of said premises in writing of such finding, and the executive officer shall, thereupon, order and direct the abatement and removal of the same within —— days; and in the event of the failure of said owner, agent, or occupier of said property to abate and remove the nuisance, then the executive officer shall proceed to abate and remove the same, and shall employ all the force necessary to do so, and shall proceed, by warrant, arrest, and indictment, to convict the party failing to obey said order of abatement and removal.

On motion, the regulation, as read, was adopted as a regulation of the Board to be entitled, "Regulation No. 1, on Abatement of Nuisances," and the Secretary was instructed to proceed, with such dispatch as in his discretion was warranted, to remove and abate the said nuisances.

On motion, the Secretary was authorized to fill the blank number of days in the regulation as in his judgment the conditions of removal and the requirements of the public health might require in each instance.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, he was instructed to obtain the opinion of the Attorney General as to whether the courts would probably sustain him in the removal and abatement of nuisances in accordance with the regulation as adopted.

On motion, the Board then adjourned.

## MINUTES OF SECOND REGULAR MEETING.

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### FIRST SESSION.

The Board met in the Supreme Court room in the capitol at Harrisburg on Wednesday, November 11, at 12, M., the President in the chair.

Present, the President, Dr. Germer, Dr. Dudley, Mr. Hering, Dr. Engelman, and Dr. Lee.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved.

The minutes of a special meeting held in Philadelphia, October 21, were read and approved.

The Secretary then read his annual report, which was received, and, on motion of Dr. Dudley, was ordered to be included in the annual report of the Board to the Governor.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, it was ordered that the substance of the minutes, as read, be also incorporated in the annual report.

On motion, the Board then adjourned to meet at 2.30, P. M.

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### SECOND SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board met at 2.30, P. M., the President in the chair.

Present, Dr. Germer, Dr. Dudley, Mr. Hering, Dr. McClelland, Dr. Engelman, and Dr. Lee.

The Secretary reported that, in obedience to the instructions of the Executive Committee, he had given an order for the execution of the seal of the Board to the Harrisburg Stencil Works, by whom a seal and press had been furnished at an expense of thirty dollars. Copies of the seal were presented for inspection. A slight variation had been made from the design prescribed in the by-law, in order to give greater prominence and distinctness to the motto, *Salus populi suprema lex*, which had been placed on the face of the seal above and below the State arms, instead of on the circumference. The seal, as presented, was approved.

The Secretary then presented the report of Dr. Lewis H. Taylor, of Wilkes-Barre, prepared in accordance with a resolution of the Board, giving a complete history of the epidemic of typhoid fever at Plymouth, Luzerne county, during the spring and summer of the present year.

On motion, portions of it were read by the Secretary, and it was referred to the Executive Committee for publication, after condensation by the Secretary, if he deemed it necessary.

Dr. Dudley then presented a report on the sanitary condition of the



house and neighborhood in Philadelphia where the individual had lodged and boarded who had been supposed to have originated the Plymouth epidemic.

On motion of Dr. McClelland, it was accepted and referred for publication.

The Secretary then presented the report of Dr. Morris Stroud French, of Philadelphia, who was one of the physicians sent to Plymouth by the Citizens' Relief Committee of Philadelphia, on the financial aspect of the epidemic. This report had been also prepared in accordance with a request from the Board, and a large number of the local relief committees of Plymouth had been engaged to make a house-to-house visitation in order to get exact facts and figures. It contained the names of every individual attacked with the disease, and would be a very valuable addition to the literature of typhoid epidemics.

It was, on motion, adopted and referred for publication.

The Secretary stated that Dr. Shakespeare, to whom he had applied, as instructed by the Board, for a report on the pathological appearances revealed in his autopsies of patients who had died during the Plymouth epidemic, had been sent abroad by the President of the United States on a sanitary mission of much importance before he had finished the desired report, but had promised to finish it while crossing the Atlantic and transmit it in time for the annual report.

The Secretary was authorized to incorporate Dr. Shakespeare's report in the annual report when received.

The Secretary then stated that, soon after entering upon his duties, complaints were made to him of nuisances existing in the districts contiguous to the city of Philadelphia, but out of reach of the jurisdiction of the Board of Health of Philadelphia, one of these being nothing less than an outbreak of small-pox, originating from infected rags at a paper-mill. He proposed, both in writing and personally appearing before the city board, to enter into an arrangement by which, in such cases, he could have an expert inspector placed at the disposal of the State Board for the emergency, the State Board to bear the expense of the inspection. The matter was referred to the sanitary committee of the city board, who decided that there were legal and technical obstacles to such arrangement which could not be gotten over. At the same time, they most courteously undertook the work of inspection in several instances until the State Board could make its own arrangements for the inspection and abatement of nuisances. Feeling that the State Board could not continue to accept gratuitous services in this way, the Secretary had assumed the responsibility of appointing Dr. William B. Atkinson, of Philadelphia, as special medical inspector for the district including all the counties immediately adjacent to the city of Philadelphia, viz: Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks, and requested the Board to confirm the appointment.

On motion, Dr. William B. Atkinson, of Philadelphia, was appointed spe-

cial medical inspector for said district, it being understood that there was to be no salary attached to this or any similar inspectorship, but that each inspection would be properly compensated at the discretion of the Secretary.

The Secretary then presented a report of an inspection of the United States Marine Hospital Service quarantine station at Lewes, at the mouth of the Delaware bay, made in company with a delegation of the Philadelphia Board of Health, and Dr. Marshall, a member of the Delaware State Board of Health. Dr. Hunt, the secretary of the New Jersey State Board of Health, had also promised to take part in the inspection, but was prevented by a sudden outbreak of typhoid fever in that State. On motion, the report was accepted and referred for publication.

The President then presented a number of circulars from the Treasury Department of the United States, addressed to him as health officer of the port of Erie, on the subject of lake quarantine, etc. They were referred to the Committee on Travel and Traffic.

The Secretary presented a report on the occurrence of cases of typhoid and malarial fevers at Rosemont, Montgomery county, attributed to bad drainage and filthy pig-styes, etc., detailing the steps which he had taken for the abatement of the alleged nuisances, involving much correspondence with legal officers of the State and county, in order to determine the exact powers of the Board in such cases, and the most expeditious and certain mode of procedure for the removal and abatement of nuisances in general. The report was accepted, and referred as in previous instances.

A similar report was presented by the Secretary on cases of typhoid fever occurring at West Fernwood, Delaware county, attributable to defective drainage. In this case, as in the previous one, inspections had been made by Dr. J. Howard Taylor, medical inspector of the Philadelphia board, by Disinfector Kennedy of the same board, by Special Medical Inspector Atkinson, and by the Secretary himself. The report was accepted and referred.

Mr. Hering, as chairman of the Committee on Water-Supply, Drainage, etc., read a report of an inspection made by himself, Dr. McClelland, and Dr. Lee, of certain nuisances existing in townships immediately contiguous to Allegheny City, but outside of the jurisdiction of the board of health of that city, with recommendations for an improved system of sewerage; also, of an inspection of the Allegheny river as a source of water-supply for that city, with recommendations. The report was accepted and referred.

Dr. McClelland reported, in reference to the subject of the report just read, that the system of sewerage for Butcher's Run, recommended in the committee's report, had already been adopted by the councils of Allegheny, and that the nuisances on Spring Garden Run had been abated by the county courts.

The Secretary read a communication from the clerk of Allegheny City,

stating that a survey of the Allegheny river had been commenced in accordance with the suggestion of the committee.

A telegram was read from Dr. Edwards stating that he would be present at the evening session.

The Secretary stated that it was made evident by the inspection at Allegheny City that one of the most pressing duties of the Board was the adoption of regulations by which the proprietors of slaughter-houses, bone-boiling establishments, soap factories, and other similar industries outside of city limits, could be compelled to conduct their business in such a way as not to create or maintain nuisances prejudicial to the public health. He had, therefore, drawn up a set of regulations for this purpose, which he submitted for the consideration of the Board.

Dr. McClelland, while expressing his approval of the general tenor and object of the regulations, thought that they might be open to objection as affixing definite penalties to certain offenses, which the law creating the Board did not, in so many precise words, authorize.

The Secretary explained that, in his view, this was merely an expression of the judgment of the Board as to what the appropriate penalty would be, and not intended at all to overrule the discretionary power conferred upon the judge by the law.

On motion of Dr. McClelland, the regulation was adopted, with the exception of the clauses affixing penalties, and the Secretary was instructed to obtain an expression of opinion from the Attorney General of the State as to the propriety of retaining such clauses, and not to circulate the regulations, as they stand, unless an affirmative decision had been rendered.

Dr. Dudley then made a report on the inspection of Camp Muhlenberg, near Media, Chester county, General Snowden commanding First Brigade, Pennsylvania State National Guard. The inspection was made in the company of the Secretary, and the report was highly commendatory of the sanitary condition and police of the camp.

The report was accepted and referred.

The President then presented a report of an inspection of Camp Gallagher, at Conneaut Lake, Major General Beaver commanding Second Brigade, Pennsylvania State National Guard. The location of the camp was good, and general sanitary precautions excellent, but considerable sickness was caused by the want of proper meat inspection, leading to the use of tainted beef.

The report was accepted and referred.

The subject of precautions to be adopted against small-pox being next in order, the President reported that since the commencement of the present epidemic in Canada, he had caused two thousand vaccinations to be made in the city of Erie.

The Secretary then read a circular, which he submitted for the approval and adoption of the Board, entitled "Precautions against Small-pox."

On motion of Dr. McClelland, the circular was approved and referred for publication in the report, and it was also

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of the same to every physician, clergyman, board of health, health officer, and school superintendent and principal throughout the State, certain alterations and amendments being first made.

On motion of Mr. Hering, the Secretary was instructed to inspect, or cause to be inspected, the various vaccine farms in this State or elsewhere in this country and report at his convenience.

The Secretary then presented an elaborate report of the sanitary committee of the Board of Health of the city of Philadelphia, made in response to a letter of inquiry addressed by him to the board, on the "provisions made for the disinfection of infected clothing, bedding, etc.," in that city, accompanied by illustrative cuts.

The report was accepted and ordered to be printed in full.

On motion of the Secretary, it was

*Resolved*, That the State Board of Health earnestly recommend to the councils of the city of Philadelphia the establishment, in other parts of the city, of disinfecting stations similar to that connected with the Municipal hospital.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board are hereby tendered to the sanitary committee of the Board of Health of the city of Philadelphia, and to its chairman, Dr. Ford, for the full and satisfactory replies made to the inquiries of the Board, and for the valuable information afforded.

*Resolved*, That the municipal disinfecting station of Philadelphia is recommended as a model to the councils of all cities in this State, and that the State Board of Health urges upon said authorities the importance of making similar provision for the treatment of infected material during the present winter, in view of the possible invasion of Asiatic cholera with the advent of warm weather, as well as of the present existence of an alarming epidemic of small-pox in a neighboring country.

The Board then, on motion, adjourned to meet at 7.30, p. m.

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### THIRD SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board re-assembled at 7.30, p. m., at the same place, the President in the chair.

Present, Dr. Dudley, Dr. Germer, Mr. Hering, Drs. Lee, Engelman, McClelland, and Edwards, constituting the entire Board.

The Secretary reported having made a brief inspection of the new drainage system of the State Lunatic Hospital at Norristown, which had been resorted to in consequence of the previous system having resulted in the contamination of a stream running through the borough of Norristown.

On motion, the subject was referred to the Committee on Water-Supply, Drainage, &c., for consideration, observation, and subsequent report.

The Secretary then presented a report on the sanitary condition of Towanda, Bradford county, signed by the most prominent physicians of



the place, and requesting advice in regard to the proper means of remedying serious defects of drainage.

The report was accepted and referred for publication.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the Secretary was authorized to appoint a special medical inspector for a district of which Bradford county should be the center.

A report on the sanitary condition of Millerstown, accompanied by a similar petition, was read by the Secretary, accepted and referred for publication.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the authorities of Millerstown, insisting on the adoption of certain sanitary reforms.

A similar report from Warrior Run was read, and a similar resolution adopted.

A report from Dr. Lewis H. Taylor, of Wilkes-Barre, on the sanitary condition of Sugar Notch, Luzerne county, was then read by the Secretary. As showing what could be done by an intelligent and energetic borough council in stamping out a threatening epidemic of typhoid fever, this report was in striking contrast to the majority of those received, and is earnestly commended to the consideration and imitation of all borough authorities. Accompanying this report, was a valuable history of the epidemic, contributed to a local paper by Dr. Davis, of Wilkes-Barre. This was, on motion, adopted as a part of the report, and the whole was then accepted and referred for publication.

The next business in order was the consideration of the subject of "Infected Rags." The Secretary gave a brief history of the cargo of the bark *Lucy A. Nickels*. Having received private intelligence that this cargo of five thousand bales of rags from Japan, which the port physician of New York had decided against admitting to that port without disinfection, were to be brought to Philadelphia, he considered it his duty to notify the health officer of Philadelphia of the fact, and to ask to be allowed to appear before the city board of health and present his protest against their being passed. This was courteously granted, but the Board nevertheless permitted the rags to be landed in bale and placed in a bonded warehouse. It was for this Board to decide whether it was necessary to take any action in the premises. Much discussion followed, and the President, calling Dr. Engelman to the chair, gave his experience as to the dangerous character of infected rags as disease carriers.

On motion of Dr. McClelland, it was then

*Resolved*, That the executive officer be instructed to forbid the removal of the Japanese rags constituting the whole, or a part, of the cargo of the bark *Lucy A. Nickels*, from Philadelphia into the rural districts, until they have been disinfected in a manner entirely satisfactory to the Board of Health of Philadelphia.

In this connection, the Secretary stated that, just before leaving Philadel-

phia to attend this meeting, he had been waited on by a gentleman, who claimed to have discovered a method of disinfection by chlorine, of much superior effectiveness to any process at present in use. Other chemists and manufacturers had also called his attention to proprietary disinfectants, requesting a competitive trial of their products. It was a subject to which the Board might appropriately turn its attention.

Dr. McClelland moved that the whole subject of disinfection and the comparative value of various disinfectants be referred to the Committee on Preventable Diseases.

It was carried.

The Secretary then presented the following communications, viz:

From Prof. George G. Groff, of Lewisburg, offering to dispose of a large collection of health charts, etc., to the Board. The Secretary was instructed to examine said charts, etc., and purchase such as appeared available for distribution.

From a large number of Clerks of Orphans' Courts and Prothonotaries throughout the State, to whom application had been made for returns of registration of marriages, and of practitioners of medicine and surgery, inquiring to whom they were to look for compensation for the service required.

Dr. McClelland moved that it was the sense of this Board that the said county officers should apply to the county commissioners of their respective counties for compensation.

It was carried.

From the United States signal officer at Philadelphia, in reply to a request from the Secretary that he would furnish meteorological data for the annual report of the Board, giving the names of a large number of private observers throughout the State.

Mr. Hering suggested that the water department of Philadelphia was in possession of data of this nature in reference to the rainfall for eastern Pennsylvania, and he had no doubt would cheerfully furnish them to the Board.

The Secretary was authorized to make application to the chief of the water department of Philadelphia for such data in the section referred to.

From Mr. R. K. Buehrle, city superintendent of public schools of Lancaster, calling attention to the fact that it is not an unusual thing for consumptives to be teachers in public schools, and suggesting the risk of infection to the pupils.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the communication was referred for publication, and also referred to the Committee on School Hygiene for consideration.

Reports of committees being now in order, Dr. Dudley, chairman, presented the report of the Executive Committee, which was accepted, and referred for publication.

On motion, the Board then adjourned to meet at the same place, at 10, A. M., November 12.



## FOURTH SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board re-assembled at 10, A. M., Thursday, November 12. All the members present. President Germer presiding.

Reading of minutes was, on motion, dispensed with.

The first business in order was the report of the Committee on Registration and Vital Statistics.

Dr. Benjamin Lee, the chairman, presented for the approval of the Board, a blank form of registration of marriages for the use of Clerks of Orphans' Courts in making their returns to the Board, which, after discussion as to whether provision should not be made in it for the registration of marriages between parties of different colors, was approved and ordered to be printed and distributed to the appropriate officers.

The Secretary was also authorized to prepare blanks upon the same general plan, having the medical registration law and the portion of the act creating the State Board of Health bearing upon the subject conspicuously printed upon a cover to be attached to the same, for the registration of practitioners of medicine and surgery, and to have the same printed and to distribute them to the appropriate county officers.

On behalf of the Committee on Preventable Diseases and the Supervision of Travel and Traffic, whose report was next in order, Dr. J. F. Edwards, chairman, reported that, in accordance with a resolution of the Board, he had, in connection with the Secretary, prepared a circular containing "Precautions against Cholera," which was presented for the consideration of the Board.

On motion, the circular was adopted, referred for publication in the annual report, and also ordered to be printed and distributed at the discretion of the Secretary.

Dr. Edwards further reported that, as instructed by the Board, he had issued a circular letter to the officers of railroads in the State urging the adoption of precautions to prevent the spread of epidemic and infectious diseases, and that he had received satisfactory replies from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, conveying the assurance of their desire to coöperate with the Board in such measures, and reporting the precautions already in use in the form of printed circulars for the instruction of employes.

The report was accepted, and the circulars referred for publication in the annual report.

Dr. Edwards also stated that he had received from the Executive Committee the following letter of instructions:

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE, 313 SOUTH FIFTEENTH STREET,  
PHILADELPHIA, September 28, 1885.

JOSEPH F. EDWARDS, M. D., *Chairman, Committee on Preventable Diseases and Supervision of Travel and Traffic.*

DEAR SIR: At a meeting of the Executive Committee held Saturday, September 26th, you were instructed to make a careful investigation into the sanitary condition of the mining populations of this State, including in your inquiries the subjects of habitations, food, beverages, water-supply, habits of life, character and effects of labor, and sanitary condition of mines. Said investigation is expected to cover a period of about three weeks, and to be made at such a time that a full report thereon may be presented to the Board at the regular meeting on the second Wednesday in November. You are authorized to draw upon the Secretary for the sum of one hundred dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary to meet the expenses of such investigation.

(Signed,)

BENJAMIN LEE, *Secretary.*

In obedience to the above instructions, Dr. Edwards had paid repeated visits to a number of points in the mining regions, and had gained much information that would be of value to the Board, but the field was so wide, and the range of information asked for so extensive, that it would be folly to attempt to make a report at this stage of his investigation.

On motion, the action of the Executive Committee was indorsed, and the investigations were ordered to be continued.

Dr. Lee, Secretary of the same Committee, reported that, in obedience to the resolution of the Board, he had communicated with the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, suggesting that the two Boards should coöperate in the effort to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases among our native stock, and had received from Secretary Edge, of that Board, cordial assurances of a desire to maintain an efficient concert of action for the purposes alluded to. Having learned through the President, Dr. Germer, of the existence of an epidemic of Texan fever among cattle at and near the city of Erie, he had commissioned Dr. Bryce, veterinary surgeon of the Board of Agriculture, to prepare a report of the epidemic, for the use of this Board, which, if it pleased the Board, he would read. Permission was accorded, the report was read, and referred for publication, as a part of the report of the committee. A letter from Secretary Edge, of the Board of Agriculture, to President Germer upon the same subject was then read, and similarly referred.

The report of the Committee on Water-Supply, Drainage, Sewerage, Topography and Mines was then presented by Rudolph Hering, Esq., C. E., chairman.

This consisted of, *first*, two elaborate maps, prepared under instructions from the Executive Committee, to serve as a basis for future statistical work, in reference to the distribution of diseases throughout the State.

The first map indicated the "distribution of population," by means of a system of colored circles, readily seized by the eye and appreciated by the mind; and the second, the "intensity of travel," on all lines of railroad in the State, by a similar graphic device.

On motion of Dr. McClelland, the thanks of the Board were tendered to Mr. Hering for the labor bestowed and ingenuity displayed in the execution of these very valuable maps, and they were referred for reduction and publication.

Mr. Hering then, *secondly*, presented a report on the general subject of the pollution of rivers, with special attention to the pollution of the Schuylkill, in the immediate vicinity of the city of Philadelphia, but outside of the jurisdiction of the board of health of that city. This subject had been referred to his committee, by the Executive Committee, in consequence of a communication received from the Board of Health of Philadelphia, calling the attention of this Board to the existence of these evils, and requesting that steps be taken for their abatement. Appended to the report, were the report of the water department of Philadelphia, upon the same subject, and the charge of Judge Thayer, on the subject of the pollution of waters used as a source of water-supply for cities.

On motion, the report was adopted, and, together with the addenda, ordered to be published.

The report of the Committee on Public Institutions, Buildings and Places, and School Hygiene. Dr. J. H. McClelland, chairman, was then presented as follows:

*To the President and Members of the State Board of Health of Pennsylvania:*

GENTLEMEN: Owing to the brief time which has elapsed since our organization, your committee can report no special investigations, but, at this time, will offer certain recommendations for adoption by the Board, looking to effective work by the committee during the coming year. Your committee would, thereupon, ask your consideration of the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Institutions and School Hygiene, in connection with the Secretary, be instructed to issue a circular addressed to the authorities or proprietors of all hospitals, asylums, public halls, and places of amusement, and churches in this State, requesting them to furnish information as to the sanitary condition of the buildings under their care or in their ownership, with special reference to ventilation, heating, air-space per individual, and water-closet arrangements, and that the portion of the act establishing this Board which refers to this subject be printed on the circular.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Institutions and School Hygiene, acting in connection with the Secretary, be instructed to issue a circular addressed to all school authorities throughout the State asking for specific information as to the sanitary condition of the several schools under their care or supervision, with special reference to methods of ventila-

tion and heating, the amount of air-space provided for each pupil in the school-rooms, mode of lighting, character of water supplied for drinking, and water-closet accommodations, and that the portion of the act creating this Board bearing upon the subject be printed upon the circular.

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee of this Board be authorized to employ inspectors of schools and other public buildings, who shall be furnished with instructions in detail, and clothed with official authority to make inspections of all public buildings under the direction of the executive officer.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Buildings and School Hygiene be instructed to confer with the Department of Public Education with reference to the passage of a law making it a misdemeanor for any school-board, board of trustees, managing committee, or superintendent to proceed to the construction of any public educational building or school, or of an addition to any such building, without having first submitted the plans for the same to the State Board of Health, or to such sanitary officer as may be designated by said Board, and obtained the approval of such Board or officer.

The Secretary moved that the report be accepted and referred for publication, and that the resolutions be then considered *seriatim*.

It was carried.

The first resolution, in regard to hospitals, asylums, and other public buildings, was then read and adopted.

The second resolution, in regard to schools, was read and adopted.

The third resolution, in regard to the employment of inspectors of public buildings by the Executive Committee, was read and adopted.

The fourth resolution, in regard to a conference with the Department of Public Education in reference to the plans for educational buildings, was read and adopted.

The Committee on Sanitary Legislation, Rules and Regulations, Pemberton Dudley, M. D., chairman, in the matter of the preparations of a digest of the laws of the Commonwealth, as far as they affect the powers and duties of this Board, reported progress.

The committee was instructed to continue the work and report not later than the regular meeting in May.

In the matter of proposing a plan for the organization of local or rural bureaus of health, the committee made a report at length, suggesting the expediency of the establishment of county boards of health with inspectors of townships. The report was accepted and referred for publication.

The secretary of the committee, Dr. Lee, presented a report, being the substance of addresses made by him before the Lehigh Valley Medical Association, the American Academy of Medicine, and the Association of Directors of the Poor in Pennsylvania, in support of the establishment of township boards of health. This was also referred for publication as part of the report of the committee. It was also ordered that copies of the questions



contained in the report of the chairman be printed by type-writer, and sent to each member of the Board.

Consideration of the by-laws being in order, the Secretary stated that, after consultation with the chairman of the Executive Committee, he had assumed the responsibility of postponing the printing of the constitution and by-laws until after the present meeting, in order that an opportunity might be afforded to suggest amendments, the result of the experience of three months' work under them.

It was moved by Dr. Dudley that the subject of disinfectants be referred to the Committee on Preventable Diseases and Supervision of Travel and Traffic.

It was carried.

It was moved by Dr. McClelland that the Committee on Adulterations, etc., No. 6, and the Committee on Explosives, etc., No. 7, be consolidated as committee No. 6, under the title, Committee on Adulterations, Poisons, Explosives and other Sources of Danger to Life and Limb.

It was carried.

On motion of the Secretary, article VI of the by-laws was stricken out, and the numbers of the subsequent by-laws respectively changed in accordance with the alteration.

The article stricken out was then, on motion of the Secretary, adopted as a regulation of the Board, under the title of Regulation of Travel and Traffic.

On motion of Dr. Engelman, the by-laws, as read and amended, were ordered to be printed. Dr. McClelland moved that the organization, etc., of the Board be printed with them. It was carried. The number of copies to be printed was left to the discretion of the Secretary. The Secretary then offered his report, as Treasurer, showing a balance in the treasury, October 1, 1885, of \$1,313 57. The report was accepted and referred for publication.

The Secretary then presented his vouchers for bills paid by him to date, which were approved by the Board and ordered to be so indorsed.

An addition of thirty-five dollars was ordered to the amount already paid Dr. Lewis H. Taylor, of Wilkes-Barre, for his report on the Plymouth epidemic.

Mr. Hering then offered the following preamble and resolution :

WHEREAS, The Schuylkill river is used for drinking water by the cities of Philadelphia, Conshohocken, Norristown, Phoenixville, and Pottstown ;

And whereas, A large amount of excrementitious matter is now allowed to enter the river, which is dangerous to the health of each of the above communities ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the executive officer of the Board be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent the entrance of excrementitious matter into the Schuylkill river above the city of Philadelphia.

The preambles and resolutions were adopted.

The appointment of committees for the ensuing year being in order, the President announced the following appointments :

1. *Executive Committee*.—Pemberton Dudley, M. D., chairman, Rudolph Hering, C. E., Joseph F. Edwards, M. D., Benjamin Lee, M. D., secretary.

2. *Committee on Registration and Vital Statistics*.—Benjamin Lee, M. D., chairman, Edward William Germer, M. D., J. F. Edwards, M. D.

3. *Committee on Preventable Diseases, Disinfectants and Supervision of Travel and Traffic*.—Joseph F. Edwards, M. D., chairman, Pemberton Dudley, M. D.

4. *Committee on Water-Supply, Drainage, Sewerage, Topography and Mines*.—Rudolph Hering, C. E., chairman, J. H. McClelland, M. D.

5. *Committee on Public Institutions, Buildings and Places, and School Hygiene*.—J. H. McClelland, M. D., chairman, Rudolph Hering, C. E.

6. *Committee on Adulterations, Poisons, Explosives and other Sources of Danger to Life and Limb*.—Pemberton Dudley, M. D., chairman, David Engelman, M. D.

7. *Committee on Sanitary Legislation, Rules and Regulations*.—David Engelman, M. D., chairman, Pemberton Dudley, M. D.

Dr. Dudley then offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

*Resolved*, That this Board would respectfully suggest that city boards of health should require physicians to report cases of typhoid fever occurring in their practice in the same manner as they are now required to report infectious diseases generally.

*Resolved*, That typhoid fever appears so frequently to originate in defective local sanitary conditions, particularly those affecting milk and water-supply, cess-pools and sewers, as to make it eminently desirable that every case of the disease reported should be followed by an inspection of the premises by a sanitary expert.

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Board that the appropriations made by the councils of cities and boroughs in this State for sanitary purposes are altogether insufficient to enable the boards of health and health officers to fulfil their function of protecting the public health, and that the importance of increasing such appropriations be urged upon them.

Mr. Hering offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Secretary, and such members of the Board as may attend the coming annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, be constituted delegates to represent this Board at said meeting.

The Secretary then offered the following resolution, which was, on motion of Dr. Engelman, adopted :

*Resolved*, That this Board has learned with deep interest of the methodical and searching investigation into the territorial distribution of consumption in this State, now being prosecuted by Prof. William Pepper, believing that it will not only add to our general knowledge of the causes of this most wide-spread and fatal of all diseases, but that it may also result in the



discovery of regions of comparative exemption from its ravages within our own borders.

*Resolved*, That this Board bespeaks the cordial coöperation of physicians throughout the State in making this effort fruitful of results.

*Resolved*, That Prof. Pepper be requested to put his deductions into such shape that the Board may be able to utilize them for the public good in its annual report.

On motion of Dr. Engelman, the determination of the next place of meeting was referred to the Executive Committee.

On motion of Dr. Dudley, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Board that the expression of opinion, favorable or unfavorable, by a scientific physician, regarding any medical or other substance exposed for sale or public use, ought not to be regarded as libelous, but that such expressions of opinion should be protected by law.

The Secretary then read a letter from Dr. H. M. Alexander, proprietor of the Lancaster County Vaccine Farm at Marietta, Pennsylvania, inviting the members of the Board to inspect his establishment and modes of procedure, and was directed to acknowledge it with thanks.

The Secretary then presented the following communication from the Committee on Health of the councils of Allegheny City :

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THANKS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF ALLEGHENY TO THE OFFICERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

*Resolved*, By the Committee on Health of the city of Allegheny, That the earnest and hearty thanks of this committee be, and are hereby, extended to the officers of the State Board of Health for their recent visit to our city, and for the able and intelligent report they have furnished of the result of their investigations.

OFFICE OF CLERK OF COUNCILS,  
CITY BUILDING, ALLEGHENY, November 5, 1885.

*To the Officers of the Board of Health :*

GENTLEMEN : I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed by the Committee on Health at their meeting held on Wednesday, the 4th instant.

Yours respectfully,

R. T. WHITE,

*Clerk of Health Committee.*

On motion, the Board then adjourned *sine die*.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the minutes and transactions of the Board, (in abstract,) as directed to be made from the records, for the annual report.

BENJAMIN LEE,  
*Secretary.*

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

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*To Edward William Germer, M. D., President of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania :*

SIR : The by-laws of this Board make it the duty of the Secretary to make a full report at the meeting in November of his official acts during the year ending October 1 preceding, and to accompany the same with recommendation of such measures as he shall deem necessary for the preservation of the public health and the faithful execution of the law ; which report, it is further provided, shall constitute the basis of the report of the Board to be presented to the Governor, on or before the first Monday of December in each year, in accordance with the requirements of section 10, of the act establishing this Board.

The Board will scarcely expect of its Secretary, or the State of the Board, that the first three months of its existence should be fruitful of any very conspicuous results ; and yet the duty assigned is too peremptory to be slighted.

In detailing his official acts, the Secretary has concluded to adopt the journal form as the simplest way of conveying an idea of the character of the duties devolving upon the Board.

THURSDAY, *July 2.*

Attended the meeting of the Board at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, at 7, P. M. Presented a draft of by-laws for the government of the Board, which, with some modifications, was adopted.

The Board adjourned at 6, P. M., to meet again at 8, P. M.

At the evening session, offered a series of resolutions, looking to the establishment of relations between the different branches of the State government, the National government, and the Boards of Health of other States, and this Board, and outlining the initiatory work of the Board, which were approved by the Board.

The Board adjourned at 10.30, to meet at 9, A. M., the day following.

FRIDAY, *July 3.*

Attended the meeting of the Board at 9, A. M., in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Presented a draft of an address of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the people of Pennsylvania, which was adopted by the Board with modifications.

The first duty of the Secretary upon the adjournment of the Board at 12,

M., was to establish relations with the Auditor General's Department, which was done in company with the President of the Board. They were received with much courtesy by the chief clerk of the department, Mr. Thomas McCamant, who furnished the Secretary with blank vouchers and requisitions, and the information necessary for conducting the financial affairs of the Board.

The Secretary then visited the Department of Internal Affairs, where, in the absence of the Secretary, he had a very satisfactory interview with J. W. Greenland, Esq., Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs.

The Board being, by the terms of the law, made dependent upon the Department of Internal Affairs for its apartments, stationery, etc., he at once made requisition for books, stationery, and desk furniture, necessary for the work of the Board.

Owing to the fact that a change was at that moment being made in the department of public printing, the arrangements for the printing of the "Address of the Board to the People of the State" were obliged to be deferred.

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SATURDAY, *July 4.*

Wrote to Dr. E. O. Shakespeare, of Philadelphia, requesting him to prepare a report of the pathological conditions observed in the autopsies made by him at Plymouth, Luzerne county, during the present epidemic of typhoid fever in that town; to Dr. Morris S. French, of Philadelphia, requesting him to prepare a report of the financial outlay and loss, direct and indirect, resulting from the Plymouth epidemic, and Dr. Lewis H. Taylor, of Wilkes-Barre, requesting him to furnish a complete history of the epidemic at Plymouth, accompanied by a map indicating sources of water-supply.

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TUESDAY, *July 7.*

Issued call for special meeting of the Executive Committee. Transmitted resolutions of Board to Dr. J. F. Edwards, chairman Committee on Preventable Diseases and Supervision of Travel and Traffic, instructing him to prepare a circular in regard to Asiatic cholera, and to address a communication to the principal officers of all railroads in the State, urging them to adopt sanitary measures and formulate a system of sanitary supervision of their trains.

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THURSDAY, *July 9.*

Transmitted resolutions of Board to the boards of health of the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, calling for immediate reports.

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FRIDAY, *July 10.*

Attended meeting of Executive Committee, at executive office of the Board, No. 313 South Fifteenth street, Philadelphia.

Sent resolutions of Board to the medical journals and the daily press.

SATURDAY, *July 11.*

Received notification from Dr. David Engelman, of Easton, of his appointment as a member of the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Dr. Benjamin Lee as Secretary. Notified the other members of the Board, in writing, of the appointment.

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MONDAY, *July 13.*

Received communication from the Board of Health of Philadelphia, containing a resolution calling the attention of the Board to the existence of serious nuisances existing on the west bank of the Schuylkill river, as well as at other points outside of the limits of the city of Philadelphia, affecting the purity of the city's water-supply, and requesting the Board to take steps toward their abatement. Went to Harrisburg. Devised forms for letter-book, library record, cash-book, letter-heads, etc., etc.

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TUESDAY, *July 14.*

Interviews with Secretary of Internal Affairs and Deputy Secretary Greenland. Made arrangements for a full set of books for the records of the Board. Interview with State Printer, Mr. E. K. Meyers; arranged for printing the act establishing the Board, the "Address of the Board to the People of the State," and forms of letter-heads, etc.

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WEDNESDAY, *July 15.*

Returned from Harrisburg, and attended regular quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee at the executive office. Reported favorable result of an interview with Attorney General Cassidy on the question referred by the Board for his decision as to its authority to order inspection of food and drugs.

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THURSDAY, *July 16.*

Consulted all the members of the Board by letter as to the authority of the Board to create salaried offices.

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FRIDAY, *July 17.*

Received from the Committee on Health of Councils of the city of Allegheny, complaint of nuisances existing immediately outside of the city, with a request for an inspection.

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SATURDAY, *July 18.*

Wrote to Harrisburg Stencil Works ordering seal and press.

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TUESDAY, *July 21.*

Wrote to Dr. L. H. Taylor, of Wilkes-Barre, requesting him to ascertain at what house in Philadelphia the individual lodged who was supposed to

have carried the seeds of typhoid fever from that city to Plymouth, with a view to instituting an inspection of the premises and neighborhood.

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WEDNESDAY, *July 22.*

Made application, in writing, to members of Congress for copies of United States census reports, and to the members of the Legislature for Pennsylvania geological survey reports for the library of the Board.

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FRIDAY, *July 24.*

Completed arrangements for ordering printed matter directly from the Superintendent of Public Printing instead of from the Department of Internal Affairs. Corrected proof of "Address of the Board."

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MONDAY, *July 27.*

Forwarded lists of standing committees to all the members of the Board

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TUESDAY, *July 28.*

Telegraphed to Dr. Germer to make an inspection of Camp Gallagher, and to Dr. Engelman to make an inspection of Camp Sigfried.

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WEDNESDAY, *July 29.*

In company with Dr. Pemberton Dudley, made a sanitary inspection of Camp Muhlenberg, near Media, First brigade, Pennsylvania National Guard.

Purchased works on sanitary subjects for the library of the Board.

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FRIDAY, *July 31.*

Wrote to General Snowden, commanding Camp Muhlenberg, transmitting report of inspection, for the information of his department.

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MONDAY, *August 3.*

Received complaint of nuisance existing at Rosemont, Montgomery county, through the secretary of the Philadelphia Board of Health, with report of cases of fever attributed to the same.

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THURSDAY, *August 6.*

Made an inspection of the quarantine station of the port of Philadelphia, at the Lazaretto, in company with Dr. John H. Rauch, secretary of the State Board of Health of Illinois, and Dr. Cleemann, of the Philadelphia Board of Health.

Addressed a communication to His Excellency, President Cleveland, an-



nouncing the organization of the Board, and requesting recognition as regards the distribution of the national appropriation to meet epidemics, in case of the occurrence of a sanitary emergency.

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FRIDAY, *August 7.*

Applied to Postmaster General Vilas for post route maps of Pennsylvania, for the use of the Committee on Water-Supply, Drainage and Topography.

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MONDAY, *August 10.*

Sent instructions to Dr. Pemberton Dudley to investigate the premises where the originator of the Plymouth epidemic contracted the disease in Philadelphia.

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WEDNESDAY, *August 12.*

Notified Daniel Kerrigan, of Rosemont, Montgomery county, to abate nuisance on his premises. Sent similar notice to William Moulden, in same village. Acknowledged donations to library from twenty-four sources.

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MONDAY, *August 17.*

Obtained opinion from Attorney General Cassidy as to the proper prosecuting officer for the Board.

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TUESDAY, *August 18.*

Consulted "Purdon's Digest of Laws of Pennsylvania," in order to determine mode of organization of local boards of health, as at present established by statute.

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WEDNESDAY, *August 19.*

Went to Quakertown, and delivered an address before the Lehigh Valley Medical Association, on "Proper Organization of Local Boards of Health in Pennsylvania."

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FRIDAY, *August 21.*

Addressed a communication to His Excellency, President Cleveland, on the importance of vigilant quarantine at Lewes, at the mouth of Delaware bay, and an appropriation for the National Board of Health.

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WEDNESDAY, *August 26.*

Attended special meeting of the Executive Committee, at the executive office, Philadelphia.

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THURSDAY, *August 27.*

Transmitted financial report of Board, for the first quarter, to the Auditor General, with requisition for appropriation.



WEDNESDAY, *September 2.*

Notified by the Board of Health of Philadelphia of the existence of cases of small-pox at Spring Mill, Montgomery county. Requested said board to send disinfecter and vaccinator to the place indicated, at the expense of the State Board.

Subsequently, had a personal interview with the Board of Health of Philadelphia on the question of coöperation between the two boards in districts lying outside of the city limits. Addressed letter of inquiry to Dr. Germer in reference to Texas fever among cattle at Erie, and preparation for small-pox.

Wrote to secretaries of State Boards of Health of New Jersey and Delaware, requesting them to take part in an inspection of the United States Marine Hospital Service quarantine station at Lewes, Delaware.

FRIDAY, *September 4.*

Visited quarantine station of United States Marine Hospital service at Lewes, Delaware, in company with delegation of the Board of Health of Philadelphia, Surgeon Bailhache, of the Marine Hospital Service, and Dr. Marshall, of the State Board of Health of Delaware.

TUESDAY, *September 8.*

Authorized Dr. J. Bryce, State Veterinary Surgeon, of Erie, to make a report on the recent epidemic of splenic fever at that place.

Subscribed to *Sanitary Monitor* and *Sanitarian* for the use of the Board.

Wrote to their Excellencies, President Cleveland and Governor Pattison, transmitting the "Address of the Board."

Made arrangements for addressing circulars to all physicians throughout the State, announcing the existence of the Board, and claiming their active coöperation in its work.

THURSDAY, *September 17.*

Left for Allegheny City, with Mr. Rudolph Hering, of the Board, to investigate nuisances referred by the Board of Health of that city.

FRIDAY, *September 18.*

Made a tour of inspection of the abattoir on Herr's Island, in the Allegheny river, of the Spring Garden district, and the Butcher's Run district, in company with Mr. Hering, chairman of the Committee on Water-Supply and Drainage. Dr. J. H. McClelland, of Pittsburgh, a member of the committee, the health officer of Allegheny, and the Committee on Health of the Councils of the city of Allegheny, acting by virtue of a special act of legislation as a board of health.

SATURDAY, *September 19.*

Inspected the water-supply of the city of Allegheny, examining the water works and point of in-take, and following up the river for a distance of eight miles, to a point above the sources of pollution from the almshouse and work-house, both of which institutions we visited cursorily, and were much pleased with their cleanliness and evidence of care in sanitary provisions.

Left Pittsburgh at 11.30, P. M.

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WEDNESDAY, *September 23.*

Had an interview, by appointment, at the executive office, with Auditor Ely, of Whitmarsh township, Montgomery county, in regard to precautions against small-pox at Spring Mill.

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THURSDAY, *September 24.*

Had an interview, by appointment, at the executive office, with residents of Rosemont, Montgomery county, in reference to nuisances in that village supposed to be prejudicial to the public health.

Received information from Major Veale, health officer of the city of Philadelphia, of the existence of cases of typhoid fever at West Fernwood, Delaware county, and of insanitary conditions at that place, supposed to be the cause of the same.

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FRIDAY, *September 25.*

Addressed a communication to the Board of Health of Philadelphia, alluding to the fact that the health of the city was constantly menaced by insanitary conditions maintained in the districts immediately outside of the city limits, and suggesting that some plan of coöperation might be agreed upon by which the trained inspectors and disinfectors of the city board could act under the authority of the State Board in investigating and removing such sources of danger.

Correspondence with the complainants in regard to the nuisances at Rosemont.

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SATURDAY, *September 26.*

Attended a special meeting of the Executive Committee, called to take action in regard to the method of procedure against parties maintaining nuisances.

Had an interview with Dr. Taylor, medical inspector, and Mr. Kennedy, disinfecter and nuisance inspector, of the Philadelphia Board of Health, and gave them instructions to make an inspection of the premises reported to be in an insanitary condition at Fernwood, Delaware county.

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SUNDAY, *September 27.*

Visited Fernwood, and made a personal investigation of the house in

which the reported cases of typhoid fever were lying, and in which one patient had died of that disease. Met Dr. Roland, the attending physician, saw the patients with him, and recognized them as being ill with typhoid fever. Found very filthy conditions, both on the premises and in the road in front of them.

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TUESDAY, *September 29.*

Gave Dr. J. F. Edwards, a member of the Board, written instructions to make a sanitary inspection of the principal mining villages of the State, especially investigating the modes of life, habitations, food, and habits of the inhabitants, drainage and water-supply of the villages, etc., and to report to the Board at its next regular meeting.

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WEDNESDAY, *September 30.*

Appointed Dr. William B. Atkinson, of Philadelphia, to the position of special medical inspector of the Board, for the district including Philadelphia and the adjacent counties, subject to the approval of the Board.

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From the foregoing statement of the work of the Secretary during the past three months, it is evident that the first and most pressing want of the State, from a sanitary point of view, is the organization of boards of health in the rural districts. What precise form this organization shall take, it is for the Board, in its wisdom, to decide, and to recommend it to the Legislature at its next meeting. The Secretary is strongly impressed with the belief, founded upon the experience of other States, whose health organization is of some years' duration and has been eminently successful, that the township will be found to be the unit of territory, and of official supervision, best suited for the maintenance of efficient and intelligent oversight of the interests of the lives and health of its inhabitants. At the same time, he is prepared to acquiesce in any decision of the Board upon the subject, and to do all he can to make the plan decided upon effective. He has been impressed, in his study of the political life of the people of the State, with the remarkable fact that the majority of the population are living entirely without local self-government. The town-meeting of New England, an institution which has done so much to maintain public spirit and promote good order and prosperity there, is entirely unknown here. The several township officers have each their several duties to perform, quite independently of one another, and never meet in council to consult upon the general interests of the town. The saying that "there is nothing certain in this world but death and taxes" is eminently true of this State, for assessors abound, and health is without protection. That the Commonwealth, generally, should have maintained so fair a reputation for good order, prosperity, and salubrity, with so loose a system of local government, speaks volumes for the capacity of its people for individual self-

government, their self-respect, and their respect for the rights and regard for the well-being of their neighbors. Should the officers of the townships, or such of them as might seem expedient, be by law instructed to associate in the protection of the public health, it would be a step in advance towards a more thorough organization of many other important interests as well.

The next most urgent need is a proper appreciation, on the part of borough councils, of the grave responsibilities devolved upon them by the laws of the Commonwealth as the conservators of public health. Every borough council in this State is, in point of fact, a board of health, possessed of absolute authority for the removal and abatement of "nuisances" prejudicial to the public health, and the adoption of measures necessary to control and stamp out infectious diseases. Comparatively few of them appear to understand this fact in all its bearings, and it will be for the Board to furnish them with a brief compend of the enactments upon this subject, and urge them to take such measures as may be necessary to make them operative.

The registration of vital statistics—a function of the Board of extreme importance—is delayed from the fact that the act establishing this bureau provides for no compensation for the officers to whom the Board would naturally look for returns, namely, in the case of the marriages, the Clerks of Orphans' Courts, and in that of medical practitioners, the Prothonotaries. Many of these gentlemen have courteously responded to the request of the Board, but a large number protest, and properly so, against being compelled to do work without pay. The returns are, therefore, so incomplete that it will be unwise to attempt to present them at present. Copies of the forms issued by the Board for this purpose accompany the report. It is to be hoped that the Legislature, at its next session, will see the justice of remedying this omission, and the Board should propose an amendment to the law for that purpose. Applications for relief from insanitary conditions have reached the Secretary from the most distant parts of the State, showing that the people were really waiting impatiently for the erection of a health department, and wherever the Secretary has felt authorized to interfere, his decisions have been received with deference and regarded as final. The great epidemic of typhoid fever in Plymouth, Luzerne county, had entirely spent its force when the Board was organized, and it is a matter of congratulation that since that time no serious outbreak of pestilential disease has occurred in any part of the State. The threatened epidemic of small-pox at Lafayette, Montgomery county, which might readily have extended to Philadelphia, was promptly nipped in the bud by the concurrent action of the Board of Health of Philadelphia with this Board.

The introduction of Texan, or splenic, fever among cattle at Erie called for prompt interference on the part of the President of the Board, Dr. Germer, the energetic health officer of Erie, who, with the aid of State



Veterinarian Bryee, succeeded in limiting the disease to a comparatively small number of cattle.

As the Board announced in its "Address to the People," its aim is not to obtrude its work upon the public notice, or endeavor to create sensations, but quietly and understandingly to make its influence felt in every portion of the State, in educating the people in matters pertaining to the promotion of health, and to stimulate and perfect sanitary organization, and it is a matter for congratulation that it has been able to devote the first few weeks of its existence principally to those ends without being called upon by any great emergency for the more public exercise of its powers.

The number of written communications received and personally read by the Secretary has been one hundred and eighty. The number of communications written by the Secretary has been three hundred and eighteen. The number of volumes purchased for the library of the Board is twenty-two: The Plumber and Sanitary Houses, S. S. Hellyer; Manual of Practical Hygiene, Parkes, two volumes; Filth Diseases and Their Prevention, John Simon, M. D., F. R. C. S.; How to Disinfect Our Homes, B. W. Palmer, A. M., M. D.; Ventilation and Heating, Billings; American Sanitary Engineering, Philbrick; Sanitary Examination of Water, Air, Food, Fox; How to Drain a House, Waring; Public Health Reports and Papers, American Public Health Association, ten volumes; Brightly's Purdon's Digest, two volumes; Medical Directory, 1885, Philadelphia, and States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware. The number of volumes presented to the Board is as follows:

Reports of Boards of Health, National, State, and Municipal, the gift of the several Boards, sixty-nine; Pennsylvania Second Geological Survey, the gift of the Honorable Robert Adams, Jr., and of the Honorable David Engelman, fifty-eight; Annual Reports of Secretary of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, the gift of Honorable J. Simpson Africa, seven; Reports of Pennsylvania Geological Survey, the gift of the Honorable James Gay Gordon, fifteen; Report of Board of Public Charities, gift of the Honorable Robert Adams, Jr.; Report on Agriculture of Pennsylvania, gift of the Honorable Robert Adams, Jr.; two copies Smull's Legislative Hand-Book, the gifts of the Honorable Robert Adams, Jr., and Honorable James Gay Gordon, respectively; Volume XI, Tenth Census of the United States on Mortality and Vital Statistics, and two volumes Compendium of the Tenth Census, the gift of the Honorable H. H. Bingham; Annual Reports of the Water Department of Philadelphia, 1882, 1883, 1884, ten copies each, the gift of Col. William Ludlow, thirty; making a total of volumes now in the possession of the Board of one hundred and eighty-four.

The number of pamphlets received has been one hundred and fifty-eight. Besides these, the Board is indebted to its President, Dr. Germer, for a number of volumes of the *Sanitarian* and many German periodicals on sanitary subjects, as well as a large number of daily papers, from which cut-



tings have been made and filed for reference. The Secretary has subscribed to the *Sanitarian* and the *Sanitary Monitor*.

The following circulars and forms have been sent out from this office, or are in the hands of the printer :

Address to the people of the State of Pennsylvania.

Circular to the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, in reference to precautions against cholera.

Circular to physicians in Pennsylvania.

Circular to editors of newspapers in Pennsylvania.

Circular to State and other Boards of Health.

Form for registration of practitioners of medicine and surgery.

Form for registration of marriages.

Regulation regarding the abatement of nuisances.

Regulations for slaughter-houses, bone-boiling, or other similar establishments.

Form for complaints of nuisances.

Form for notices to abate nuisances.

Circular of precautions against cholera.

Circular of precautions against small-pox.

Regulations for the sanitary supervision of travel and traffic.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ACT, ADDRESS, AND CIRCULARS.

Copies of the "Act to establish a State Board of Health," and of the "Address of the State Board of Health to the people of Pennsylvania," were sent to His Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and to all heads of departments at Harrisburg; to the mayors of all cities, the burgesses of all boroughs, and supervisors of all townships and villages in Pennsylvania; to the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature, to all judges, district attorneys, and prothonotaries, and to all boards of health in Pennsylvania; to His Excellency, the President of the United States, and all heads of departments at Washington.

Copies of the act and of a circular letter to physicians were sent to all physicians in Pennsylvania.

Copies of the act, of the address, and of a circular letter to editors were sent to six hundred editors in Pennsylvania.

Copies of the act and of the address were sent to all County medical societies in Pennsylvania; to all State medical societies in the United States and Canada.

Copies of the act, of the address, and of a circular letter to boards of health were sent to all State boards of health in the United States and Canada, to the boards of health or health officers of all large cities in the United States, and to the secretaries of National boards of health or health bureaus of all European countries.

The following is a list of printed matter and stationery furnished to the Board by the Superintendent of Public Printing, Honorable W. Hayes

Grier, on requisition of the Secretary, and in accordance with forms devised by him :

One record book for library.

Five hundred half-sheet letter blanks for acknowledging receipt of books, etc.

Ten thousand postal wrappers with arms of State and name of Board.

Seven thousand circulars to physicians.

Six hundred circulars to editors.

Sixteen thousand complimentary slips.

Five hundred sheets unruled letter paper with heading of Board.

Two hundred and fifty postal notices of meetings of Board.

Three hundred and fifty postal notices of meetings of Executive Committee.

Four hundred postal acknowledgments.

Five hundred notices of nuisances.

Three hundred complaints of nuisances.

Five hundred addressed envelopes.

Five hundred circulars to prothonotaries and clerks of orphans' courts.

Two hundred circulars to boards of health.

One thousand circulars, regulations for slaughter-houses, etc.

Five hundred postal cards with heading.

Two hundred postal cards addressed.

Twenty thousand copies circular, " Precautions against cholera."

Twenty thousand copies circular, " Precautions against small-pox."

The following is a list of books, stationery, etc., furnished for the use of the Board upon the requisition of the Secretary by Deputy Secretary Greenland, of the Department of Internal Affairs :

One book for minutes of the Board.

One book for the minutes of the Executive Committee.

One book for record of letters.

One book for journal of Secretary.

One book for cash account.

One book for ledger account.

Three scrap-books.

Twelve maps of Pennsylvania.

One letter-copying press.

Four letter-press books.

Ten thousand copies address of State Board of Health to the people of Pennsylvania.

Ten thousand copies act to establish a State Board of Health.

Two thousand letter-heads.

Two thousand note-heads.

Two thousand large envelopes.

Two thousand small envelopes.

The following is a list of articles purchased for the use of the Board by the Secretary :

One dozen document boxes.  
 One piece rubber.  
 One box rubber bands.  
 One nickel blotter.  
 One cyclostyle.  
 One seal with press.  
 Two tin signs.  
 One fountain pen with pocket.  
 One copying book.  
 One bottle copying ink.

## REPORT OF SECRETARY AS TREASURER.

The Secretary begs leave respectfully to report :

That there was received from the State Treasurer, July 3, 1885,  
 the appropriation for the first quarter, . . . . . \$1,250 00  
 And September 3, 1885, the appropriation for the second quar-  
 ter, . . . . . 1,250 00

Making a total of receipts, . . . . . \$2,500 00

That there have been expended, up to October 1,

1885, for traveling and other necessary expenses of members while on duty, . . . . .	\$193 85
For postage, . . . . .	130 15
For books and maps, . . . . .	29 05
For furniture, . . . . .	51 20
For clerical services, . . . . .	8 00
For scientific report, . . . . .	10 00
For express, telegraph, etc., . . . . .	14 18
For salary of Secretary, . . . . .	750 00
	<hr/> 1,186 43

Leaving a balance in the treasury October 1, 1885, of . . . . \$1,313 57

Respectfully submitted.

BENJAMIN LEE,  
*Secretary.*

# CONSTITUTION.

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The Constitution of the STATE BOARD OF HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA is the act of Legislature establishing the Board, approved June 3, 1885, of which the following is the correct text :

## AN ACT

*To establish a State Board of Health for the better protection of life and health, and to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases in this Commonwealth.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint six persons, a majority of whom shall be physicians of good standing, graduates of regularly chartered and legally constituted medical colleges, and of not less than ten years' experience in the practice of their profession, and one of whom shall be a civil engineer, who, together with the Secretary, the mode of whose appointment is hereinafter provided for, shall constitute and be designated as the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Of the six persons first appointed, two shall serve for two years, two for four years, and two for six years, from the first day of July next following their confirmation; and the Governor shall thereafter biennially appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, two persons, of the same professions as those whose terms of office have just expired, to be members of said Board, to hold their offices for six years from the first day of July next following their confirmation, and until their successors are appointed, excepting the secretary, who shall continue in office as hereinafter provided; but any member may be re-appointed. Any vacancy occurring in said Board during a recess of the Legislature shall be filled by the Governor until the next regular session of the same.

Manner of appointment.  
Number of members.

Term of service.

Manner of organization.

SECTION 2. As soon as possible after the appointment of the first six persons, as aforesaid, they shall meet in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and shall proceed, under the direction of the latter officer, to determine by lot which of them shall serve for the respective terms of two, four, and six years. Before entering upon the duties of the office, they shall take the oath prescribed for State officers by the Constitution of the State, and shall file the same in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, who, upon receiving the said oath of office, shall issue to each a certificate of appointment for his respective term of office determined as aforesaid; upon receiving which they shall possess and exercise the powers, and perform the duties, of said Board as defined in this act. Immediately after having taken the oath of office, they shall organize, by electing one of their number to be president, and by appointing a proper person, who shall be a physician of good standing, of not less than ten years' professional experience, and a graduate of a legally constituted medical college, to be secretary of said Board, who shall hold his appointment until removed by the appointment of his successor or otherwise. The Board may elect one of its own members secretary, in which case the vacancy thus created shall be filled by the Governor in the same manner as a vacancy caused in any other way. The president shall be elected annually. No member of the Board, except the Secretary, shall, as such, receive any salary; but the actual traveling and other expenses of any member, while engaged on the actual duties of the Board, shall be allowed and paid on presentation to, and approval by, the Auditor General of an itemized account with vouchers annexed.

Appointment of secretary.

Actual expenses of members to be paid.

Duties of secretary.

Salary of secretary.

SECTION 3. The secretary shall be the executive officer of the Board, and shall have all the powers and privileges of a member of said Board, except in regard to voting upon matters relating to his own office and duties as secretary. He shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars, which shall be paid him in the same manner that salaries of other State officers are paid; and such necessary expenses as the Auditor General shall audit, on presentation of an itemized account with vouchers annexed and the certificate of the Board, shall be allowed him.

Time and place of meetings.

SECTION 4. The said Board shall meet at least once every six months, and may also hold special meetings as frequently as the proper and efficient discharge of its duties shall require, in the capitol building at Harrisburg (unless



otherwise ordered). and the rules and by-laws of the Board shall provide for the giving of proper and timely notice of all such meetings to every member of the Board. The Secretary of Internal Affairs shall provide and furnish such apartments and stationery as said Board may require in the discharge of its duties. A majority of the members of the Board shall, at any regular, called, or adjourned meeting, organize and constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 5. The State Board of Health and Vital Statistics shall have the general supervision of the interests of the health and lives of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and shall especially study its vital statistics. It shall make sanitary investigations and inquiries respecting the causes of disease and especially of epidemic diseases, including those of domestic animals, the sources of mortality, and the effects of localities, employments, conditions, habits, food, beverages and medicine, on the health of the people. It shall also disseminate information upon these and similar subjects among the people. It shall, when required by the Governor or the Legislature, and at such other times as it deems it important, institute sanitary inspections of public institutions or places throughout the State. It shall codify and suggest amendments to the sanitary laws of the Commonwealth, and shall have power to enforce such regulations as will tend to limit the progress of epidemic diseases.

Duties and functions of board defined.

SECTION 6. In cities, boroughs, districts, and places having no local Board of Health, or in case the sanitary laws or regulations in places where boards of health or health officers exist should be inoperative, the State Board of Health shall have power and authority to order nuisances, or the cause of any special disease or mortality, to be abated and removed, and to enforce quarantine regulations, as said Board shall direct.

Powers of board.

Any person who shall fail to obey, or shall violate, such order shall, on conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than one hundred dollars at the discretion of the court.

Penalty for violation or neglect.

SECTION 7. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics to have general supervision of the State system of registration of births, marriages, and deaths, of prevalent diseases, and of practitioners of medicine and surgery, to prepare the necessary methods, forms, and blanks for obtaining and preserving such records, and to insure the faithful registration of the same in the several counties and in the Central Bureau of Vital Statistics at the capital of

Function of board in registration.

the State. The said Board shall recommend such forms and amendments of laws as shall be deemed to be necessary for the thorough organization and efficiency of the registration of vital statistics throughout the State. The Secretary of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics shall be the superintendent of registration of vital statistics ; as supervised by said Board, the clerical duties and safe-keeping of the Bureau of Vital Statistics thus created shall be provided for by the Secretary of Internal Affairs, who shall also provide and furnish such apartments and stationery as said Board shall require in the discharge of such duties.

Secretary of Internal Affairs to provide clerical assistance, stationery and apartments

SECTION 8. It shall be the duty of all health officers and boards of health in the State to communicate to said State Board of Health copies of all their reports and publications, and also such sanitary information as may be requested by said Board. And said Board is authorized to require reports and information (at such times, and of such facts, and, generally, of such nature and extent as its by-laws or rules may provide) from all public dispensaries, hospitals, asylums, infirmaries, prisons and schools, and from the managers, principals and officers thereof, and from all other public institutions, their officers and managers, and from the proprietors, managers, lessees and occupants of all places of public resort in the State : but such reports shall only be required concerning matters or particulars in respect of which it may, in its opinion, need information for the proper discharge of its duties.

Local boards of health and institutions to report to board.

SECTION 9. Said Board may, from time to time, engage suitable persons to render sanitary service or to make or supervise practical and scientific investigations and examinations requiring expert skill, and to prepare plans and reports relative thereto. But no more than two thousand dollars shall be expended in any one year for such special sanitary service.

Scientific investigations.

SECTION 10. It shall be the duty of said Board, on or before the first Monday of December in each year, to make a report in writing to the Governor of this State upon the sanitary condition and prospects of the State ; and such report shall set forth the action of the said Board and its officers and agents, and the names thereof, for the past year, and may contain other useful information pertinent to the objects for which it was created, and shall suggest any further legislative action or precaution deemed proper for the better protection of life and health ; and the annual report of said Board shall also contain a detailed statement of the

Annual report.

State Treasurer of all moneys paid out by or on account of said Board, and a detailed statement of the manner of its expenditures during the year last past, but its total expenditures shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars in any one year.

SECTION 11. The sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) is hereby appropriated from the treasury for the purposes of this act and the expenditures properly incurred by the authority of said Board and verified by affidavit, subject, however, to the limitations hereinbefore imposed, and shall be paid by the Treasurer upon the warrant of the Auditor General. Appropriation.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect immediately, and all acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith shall be, and are hereby, repealed.

APPROVED—June 3, 1885.

ROBT. E. PATTISON.



# BY-LAWS.

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The By-Laws of the STATE BOARD OF HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA are as follows :

## ARTICLE I.

### OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

SECTION 1. The officers of the Board shall be a president and a secretary as directed by section 2 of the act establishing the Board.

SECTION 2. All elections shall be by ballot.

## ARTICLE II.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Board, preserve order, and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage require. He shall be *ex-officio* a member of all committees.

SECTION 2. The Secretary shall keep the record, and conduct the correspondence of the Board. He shall be custodian of all books, documents, furniture and other property belonging to the Board. He shall give proper and timely notice, in writing, of every regular and called meeting, to each member of the Board, and shall, as executive officer, perform such other duties as are assigned by the act establishing the Board, or by these by-laws, as the Board may from time to time direct. All communications from the Secretary to the Board shall be in writing.

## ARTICLE III.

### MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second Wednesday in May, July and November, at Harrisburg (unless otherwise ordered). At the meeting in July, the election of officers shall be held. At the meeting in November, the annual report shall be adopted, and at the meeting in May, a public address on some sanitary topic shall be delivered.

SECTION 2. Special meetings shall be called by the President, at such time and place as he shall designate, whenever requested in writing by three members of the Board, one of whom shall be the Secretary.

SECTION 3. A majority of the members of the Board shall, at any regular, called or adjourned meeting, organize and constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.



## ARTICLE IV.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

SECTION 1. All meetings of the Board shall be called to order at the appointed hour by the President. In the event of his absence, a chairman *pro tempore* shall be appointed.

SECTION 2. At regular meetings, the business shall be conducted as follows :

1. The Secretary shall register the names of the members present.
2. The minutes of the last regular meeting shall be read.
3. The minutes of special meetings held since the last regular meeting may be read, if called for.
4. Report of the Secretary.
5. Reports of standing committees.
6. Reports of special committees.
7. At the meeting in July, nomination and election of a President for the ensuing year.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Adjournment.

SECTION 3. At special meetings, the following shall be the order of business :

1. Registration of names of members present.
2. Reading of minutes.
3. Presentation of special subject.
4. Presentation of accounts.
5. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE V.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall, at the meeting in November, make a full report of his official acts during the year ending October 1 preceding, and accompany the same with recommendation of such measures as he shall deem necessary for the preservation of the public health and the faithful execution of the law, and this report shall constitute the basis of the report of the Board to be presented to the Governor on or before the first Monday of December in each year, in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the act constituting this Board.

## ARTICLE VI.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the President of the Board at the meeting in November :

1. An executive committee.
2. A committee on registration and vital statistics.

3. A committee on preventable diseases, disinfectants and supervision of travel and traffic.

4. A committee on water-supply, drainage, sewerage, topography and mines.

5. A committee on public institutions and school hygiene.

6. A committee on adulterations, poisons, explosives and other special sources of danger to life and limb.

7. A committee on sanitary legislation, rules and regulations.

SECTION 2. Such papers, communications, or other matter received by the Secretary, as he may deem proper for the purpose, he shall forward to the chairman of the appropriate committee, after filing the titles and memoranda, which shall be recorded in the Secretary's office.

SECTION 3. All reports of committees shall be in writing.

## ARTICLE VII.

### FINANCES.

SECTION 1. All accounts against the Board shall be filed with the Secretary, and may be presented at any meeting of the Board, when they shall be acted on in open session, and all accounts allowed shall be indorsed, "approved by order of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics," and shall be indorsed by the President and Secretary.

SECTION 2. The Secretary shall record, in a book reserved for that purpose, all accounts of expenditures ordered or made by the Board and its several members, and shall, before presenting any bill, account, or voucher to the Auditor General, cause a copy of the same to be recorded, and shall have stamped upon such voucher, account, or bill the audit and date as the Executive Committee shall provide.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than three members, including the Secretary of the Board, who shall be secretary of the committee.

SECTION 2. It shall have the general supervision of the finances, purchases, expenses, and publications of the Board.

SECTION 3. Its office shall be in the city of Philadelphia until otherwise ordered.

SECTION 4. It shall hold meetings at least quarterly, and as much oftener as it shall deem necessary, and shall meet on the call of the chairman.

SECTION 5. With the approval of the Board or of the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall make requisition upon the Secretary of Internal Affairs for such stationery, printed forms, clerical labor, apartments, and furniture as shall be needed for the use of the Board.

SECTION 6. No purchases shall be made or expenditure incurred except

by order of the Board or of the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee shall not have power to incur any indebtedness beyond the amount appropriated by law.

#### ARTICLE IX.

##### RULES OF ORDER.

In conducting the business of the meetings of the Board, the parliamentary rules governing the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania shall be adopted so far as they are applicable to its deliberations.

#### ARTICLE X.

##### SEAL.

The seal of the Board shall be circular in shape, bearing on the circumference the words, "State Board of Health. Pennsylvania. 1885. *Salus Populi Suprema Lex*," and in the center the coat of arms of the Commonwealth.

#### ARTICLE XI.

##### AMENDMENTS.

These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Board by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

# State Board of Health and Vital Statistics

OF THE

## COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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### OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

#### *President.*

EDWARD WILLIAM GERMER, M. D., of Erie.

#### *Secretary.*

BENJAMIN LEE, M. D., of Philadelphia.

#### *Members.*

EDWARD WILLIAM GERMER, M. D., of Erie.

PEMBERTON DUDLEY, M. D., of Philadelphia.

DAVID ENGELMAN, M. D., of Easton.

JOSEPH F. EDWARDS, M. D., of Philadelphia.

RUDOLPH HERING, C. E., of Philadelphia.

J. H. McCLELLAND, M. D., of Pittsburgh.

BENJAMIN LEE, M. D., of Philadelphia.

#### *Place of Meeting.*

Supreme Court-room, State Capitol, Harrisburg, (unless otherwise ordered.)

#### *Time of Meeting.*

Second Wednesdays in May, July, and November.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

*Members,*

PEMBERTON DUDLEY, M. D., *Chairman.*  
 RUDOLPH HERING, C. E.  
 JOSEPH F. EDWARDS, M. D.  
 BENJAMIN LEE, M. D., *Secretary.*

*Place of Meeting,*

(Until otherwise ordered.)

Executive Office, 1532 Pine street, Philadelphia.

*Time of Meeting.*

Third Wednesdays in January, April, July, and October.

*Secretary's Address.*

1532 Pine street, Philadelphia.

*Bureau of Registration of Vital Statistics.*

Department of Internal Affairs, State Capitol, Harrisburg.

*State Superintendent of Registration of Vital Statistics.*

BENJAMIN LEE, M. D.



## ADDRESS

OF THE

"State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

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*To the People of Pennsylvania :*

The "State Board of Health," called into existence by the will of the people of this great Commonwealth, expressed through its representatives in General Assembly met, and approved by its chief executive, enters upon the discharge of its grave duties and the exercise of its important powers deeply impressed with the sense of the responsibilities which devolve upon it, and reverently invoking the blessing of the God of nations upon its labors. It desires at the outset so to define its position as to lead to the immediate establishment of those friendly reciprocal relations between itself and the public, which can be securely founded only upon a vigilant care for the well-being of the people by the State on the one side, and "a decent respect for the government by the people" on the other.

It is not too much to say that the creation of this Board makes a new era in the history of the State, since it indicates the recognition by our legislators of the truth, reflected from the minds of the people, once so well formulated by England's brilliant prime minister, Lord Beaconsfield, that "the health of the people is the first duty of the statesman." The "DECLARATION OF RIGHTS," which constitutes Article I of the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and is, therefore, a part of its organic law, proclaims that "all men have certain inherent and indefeasible rights; among which are those of enjoying and defending life and of pursuing their own happiness." It is the conviction of this Board that these necessarily include the inherent right to the enjoyment of pure air, pure water, and pure soil, since without them life can neither be enjoyed nor successfully defended, and the pursuit of happiness becomes a cruel mockery. It further conceives one of its paramount duties to be to see that no man or combination of men, however rich or powerful, shall be allowed to trespass on these rights of the humblest citizen, whether from negligence, from greed or gain, or simply from ignorance. It is no mere empty figure of speech by which we call disease a public enemy. It requires to be met with organized resistance, and this resistance must be directed by a responsible head. When pestilence invades our borders, that head must be clothed with powers analogous to those of a general when the foe is at the gates. Sanitary law, in

place of martial law, is then proclaimed, and what are, in times of general health, recognized as sacred rights of person and property are sternly set aside. When such emergencies arise, as they inevitably must at some time, and as they possibly may at no distant day, the Board confidently looks to the sound sense and self-control of the people to lead them to submit cheerfully to whatever temporary inconveniences it may be deemed necessary to impose. The abridgment of the license of the individual—nay, at times, even of his rights—for the sake of protecting the rights of the community, is the very foundation-stone of civilized life. Civil organization cannot exist without it. Hence, restrictions are placed upon certain kinds of business which threaten injury to human beings. We prohibit the merchant from exercising his right of unrestricted barter and sale and storage in the matter of explosives. He is not allowed to keep any considerable quantity of gunpowder, nitro-glycerine, or dynamite within certain limits, or within a certain distance of an inhabited house. Every one acquiesces in the justice of this restriction of his rights. But if a powder magazine had exploded in the heart of Philadelphia on the first of January, 1872, this calamity, frightful as it would have been would not have caused a tithe as many deaths, would not have produced a hundredth part as much suffering, would not have afflicted an approach to as great a pecuniary loss as did the epidemic of small-pox which was then raging. Thousands of lives, tens of thousands of maimed, disfigured, or invalided persons, millions of money—such was the cost of that explosion of disease. Is it too much to insist that all our citizens shall submit to that slight infringement of their personal rights, which an immense majority voluntarily undergo, in order that another such calamity shall henceforth, forever, be an impossibility within the borders of this Commonwealth?

Heretofore, it has been only a straggling, desultory warfare which has been waged against preventable disease within our borders. Isolated health boards and solitary sanitarians, here and there, have carried on a gallant fight, but against great odds, because lacking the element of intelligently combined action, which is essential to success. A prominent English medical review, speaking of our fragmentary and disjointed system of hygienic administration, if system it can possibly be called, says: "There is much good work done under a species of semi-authority and sufferance, and by volunteer exertion, but the plaint is the lack of a central authority and administrative power to make sanitary supervision an effective reality. The water-supply of a considerable portion of a great city is abominably polluted, but no sufficient authority is found to remedy it; there are numerous and deplorable nuisances, but no effective inspectors; there are many factories and work-shops, but no laws to secure their hygienic condition or the physical well-being of those employed in them; there is evidence unmistakable of the sale of unwholesome and adulterated food, but it is nobody's business to meddle with it and protect the public; there are on all sides complaints of building operations in defiance of sanitary laws, and no one

with authority to attend to them and take action against them ; and lastly, intra-mural interments stand condemned in all civilized communities, but the public authorities of the American cities have no power to stop them." It will be the business of this Board to see to it that this stigma upon our civilization is removed ; to collect and coördinate these scattered forces, marshaling them into a regular army of well-drilled sanitary troops, armed and equipped with all the appliances that modern science can suggest for stamping out pestilence and conquering contagion ; to strengthen feeble health organizations, and to establish new ones where none exist, until there shall not be a hamlet in the entire domain of the State without its regularly constituted health-officers in direct communication with the central head.

Where the hygienic interests of different sections appear temporarily to conflict, the Board will use its best efforts to harmonize them. It often happens that the sanitary undertakings of one city prove the opposite of health-giving in their results in regard to another. The towns and cities which line the Schuylkill, for example, meritoriously wash themselves in that limpid stream, and so far do well, but unhappy Philadelphia, with the typhoid virus creeping through her veins, shudders as she unwillingly drinks their defiled washings. That they do this at their peril, the story of afflicted Plymouth only too clearly demonstrates, for let it not be forgotten that Philadelphia sowed the seed from which death has just reaped so fearful a harvest in that far-off mountain village. Hence, the necessity for the consideration on the part of the central sanitary authorities of the difficult problem afforded by "the pollution of rivers," in a broad, generous spirit, with a view to determining methods whereby one community may improve its own health conditions without impairing those of a neighbor.

In an immense territory like our own, larger than that of most of the nations of Europe, with its great diversity of surface, its lofty mountain ranges, and its immense forests, wonderful opportunities exist for sanitary engineering on an immense scale, determining in what direction water-sheds shall be encouraged and in what diverted ; to what extent private corporations are to be allowed to jeopardize the health of large sections of the country by obstructing natural water-courses, for the purposes of manufacture or navigation ; deciding how far certain forests act as natural barricades against devastating winds, and should, therefore, be left untouched by the axe in order to maintain a permanent average rainfall, and thus avert droughts, cyclones, and floods—and how far others interfere with the circulation of healthful breezes, and may, therefore, be with benefit removed.

With a rapidly growing population, and the frequent development of new centers of wealth and industry, much effective sanitation for the future can be accomplished in supervising the laying-out of new towns. No village must be allowed, from this time forth, to take the simplest corporate form without laying before this Board a carefully prepared plan of its sanitary provisions. Inquiry will be made into the character of the soil,

the quantity and quality of the possible water-supply; the width and inclination of its streets; whether its projected system of sewerage is wise and scientific; whether its surface drainage takes advantage of the natural water-courses; its regulations in regard to habitations, the space of ground allowed to each, and the space required in each in relation to the number of occupants. All these are points which enlightened sanitary science demands should be arranged, with a wise prescience in advance, and not left to settle themselves hap-hazard as emergencies may arise, after fearful sacrifices of health and life, and at an immense outlay of money—as our older cities are finding out to their cost.

The Board must also consider the relations of the country to the city as a purveyor. The supply of fresh vegetables and fruits, and pure milk and other dairy products to large communities is of the utmost importance, and every effort will be made to require and secure it. The transportation of live stock for food needs to be very carefully watched and regulated, both that none but healthy, and, therefore, wholesome, meat may be exposed for sale, and that infectious and epidemic diseases may not be introduced among our native herds and flocks from other localities; and although this subject has not been neglected by a coördinate branch of governmental supervision, the Board feels assured that any assistance which it may render in so important a matter will not be considered as impertinent.

But to attempt to briefly indicate even all the directions in which this organization hopes to add to the welfare and prosperity of the State would be to write a volume instead of carrying out its intention simply to speak a word. The intimate connection between a high standard of public health and material prosperity cannot be gainsaid. A human life has an actual cash value to the community as certainly as that of a horse or a cow. Fifteen million dollars would not cover the loss to this State from preventable diseases in a single year. Hence, the money spent in sanitary precautions and improvements is repaid with compound interest in the longevity and productive capacity of the population. Its disbursement is economy of the wisest kind, worthy of the most sagacious statesman.

But while it is true that the subjects confided to the consideration of this Board involve the profoundest problems of political economy and the most intimate researches of scientific investigation, it is not less true that every home and every hearth in the Commonwealth is deeply interested in the practical results to which it shall attain. Every vacant chair by the fireside, every empty place at the table, whose beloved occupant was snatched away by the ruthless hand of contagious or preventable disease, is a mute appeal for more searching inquiry into the causes and means of prevention of such diseases by the health authorities, and more general interests in their labors, and readier acquiescence in their decisions by the community at large and its individual members. The Board, therefore, earnestly invokes the conscientious coöperation of every householder to the



extent of keeping his own home, and other buildings of which he may have supervision, in a healthful condition.

Especially does it desire that the women of the State should take an active and intelligent interest in the practical solution of the problems of home hygiene and sanitation. The establishment of the first State Board of Health in the United States was effected by the efforts of women. Reference is made to that Board, whose work has been so effective and thorough that it has been looked to as a model by other similar organizations—that of Massachusetts—now in the sixteenth year of its existence. The ancients were right in making the divinity of health a goddess rather than a god, for woman, as wife, mother, nurse, has for her special function that daily ministry to the bodily welfare and daily necessities of offspring and of husband, that constant presence in and care for the home which are such essential promoters of health in the individual, in the family, and in the community. The Board is especially urgent, then, that the mothers of the land should attentively study the leaflets and tracts which it will from time to time issue, giving plain, practical advice as to the best methods of preventing the spread of infectious diseases, and of making their homes the abodes of health, and therefore of happiness.

The Board proposes to indulge in no display of sanitary pyrotechnics in order to dazzle the public and create for itself a factitious importance, but rather, by quiet, steady, carefully-considered work, to organize sanitary effort, to acquaint itself with the health conditions of every quarter of the State, and to diffuse information which shall develop an enlightened public sentiment in regard to both rights and duties from a sanitarian stand-point. Especially will it recognize the necessity for moving with caution where the interests of trade, manufacture, or commerce apparently conflict with those of public health, aiming always to protect the latter with the least possible interference with the successful promotion of the former.

But, on the other hand, if the Legislature of this Commonwealth, acting with its usual wise conservatism, has been slow in establishing this safeguard to the lives and health of the people, the latter may congratulate themselves that a much stronger law has now been enacted than could possibly have been passed when the first application for such legislation was made. Instead of being only a statistical and advisory body, as must then have been created, the present Board has been endowed with ample powers to enforce its regulations for the protection of the public, and this grant imposes a responsibility which the Board recognizes and will not hesitate to assume if occasion demand.

The Board cannot find more fitting language in which to conclude this address than that employed in a recent admirable circular issued by the Board of Health of the city of Philadelphia "for the guidance of citizens in the management of their dwellings and for personal application." It is as follows: "While the health of the community depends in great degree upon a rigid observance by officials of all the laws of public hygiene, it is no less



dependent upon the faithful applications of the principles of hygiene on the part of individuals. To accomplish the best results, the earnest and cheerful coöperation of the people with the health authorities in all matters pertaining to the general health is absolutely indispensable."

ED. WM. GERMER, M. D., *President.*

PEMBERTON DUDLEY, M. D.

J. F. EDWARDS, M. D.

RUDOLPH HERING, C. E.

J. H. McCLELLAND, M. D.

BENJAMIN LEE, M. D., *Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, }  
HARRISBURG, *July 3, A. D. 1885.* }





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